

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 AID-05 EB-12 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIEP-03 AGR-20 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 /123 W

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R 050605Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1051

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ON AID TO LAOS

1. WITH USAID DIRECTOR MANN, I MET WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SUGANUMA AND TWO OF HIS OFFICERS YESTERDAY IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON OUR AID PROGRAMS OF THE EXTENSIVE AID FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WHICH THE PGNU IS SOLICITING AND MAY BE RECEIVING.

2. THE JAPANESE AND WE HAVE THE LISTS (REPORTED SEPTTEL) OF THE COMMODITIES WHICH THE PGNU DELEGATION, HEADED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER SOTH PHETRASY, INTENDS TO REQUEST IN VARIOUS SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. I NOTED THAT THE ARRIVAL OF THESE COMMODITIES COULD IMPACT IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY ON U.S. AND JAPANESE AID PROGRAMS. AT A MINIMUM, A MAJOR EFFORT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND THE IMPORTATION EITHER THROUGH FEOF OR THROUGH BILATERAL PROGRAMS OF CEMENT, RICE, TRUCKS, MEDICINE, ETC., WHICH THE PGNU MAY RECEIVE FROM RUSSIA, CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES. RECALLING THE SITUATION WHICH AROSE IN

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COUNTRIES. RECALLING THE SITUATION WHICH AROSE IN

BURMA SOME YEARS AGO WHEN UNCOORDINATED IMPORTS OF CEMENT TO BURMA RESULTED IN A MONUMENTAL WASTE, I STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPANESE MISSIONS, GIVEN THE PROBABILITY THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RELATE IN A SENSIBLE MANNER THE AID IT WAS RECEIVING FROM EAST AND WEST.

3. I STATED THAT THE AID BILL HAD NOT YET BEEN PASSED AND THAT WE WERE MINDFUL OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF COMMUNIST DELIVERIES. IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO REDUCE U.S. AID IN THE LIGHT OF COMMUNIST GIFTS BUT SOME REALLOCATION OF U.S. RESOURCES WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY.

4. THE JAPANESE AGREED WITH THE FOREGOING ANALYSIS. THEY STATED THAT WHILE THEIR AID WAS FAR LESS THAN OURS, THE PROBLEMS WE CONFRONTED WERE IDENTICAL. THEY TOO HAD BEEN WONDERING HOW THE AID FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WOULD IMPACT ON THEIR GRANTS AND THE COMMODITIES FINANCED THROUGH FEOF. WE AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DRAW ANY SENSIBLE CONCLUSIONS UNTIL THE DETAILS ON THE COMMUNIST AID PROGRAMS WERE MADE KNOWN.
WHITEHOUSE

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